

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in reply to the non-final Office Action dated June 19, 2006, issued in the above-identified application. Presently, claims 1-25 are pending in the application. With this Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 7, 14-16, 18 and 24-25 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment, thus, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

At the outset, the Applicant thanks Examiner Smith for granting the interview conducted on August 1, 2006 with the Applicant's representative. During the interview, newly proposed claim changes to independent claims 1, 14-16 and 24-25 were discussed in detail. The claims changes were proposed to more clearly distinguish the features of the present invention over the Katayanagi reference. In particular, it was noted that the proposed claim changes emphasize that the information processing apparatus of the present invention receives a software module from an electronic apparatus for accessing product history information regarding that electronic apparatus. At the conclusion of the interview, it was agreed that the proposed claim changes directed to the installing and the uninstalling of the software module would likely be sufficient to distinguish over Katayanagi. However, the Examiner did state that further search and consideration would be required before reaching a final determination of allowability.

II. Response To Claim Rejections

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,321,983 issued to Katayanagi et al. (hereafter, "Katayanagi"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14-16 and 24-25 as suggested during the Examiner Interview. In particular, the claims have been amended to point out that the information processing apparatus of the present invention includes the use of a software module for writing and reading product history information related to an electronic apparatus connected to a network. The software module is acquired and installed when the electronic apparatus is connected to the network, and uninstalled when the electronic apparatus is pulled out or disconnected from the network. The information processing apparatus, method, system and computer-readable medium of the present invention enables product history

information to be read from and written to a guarantee card of an electronic apparatus (see, Applicant's application, pages 20-22).

In contrast, Katayanagi discloses a method and system for managing the overall life cycle of a product, from its manufacture to its destruction or recycling, that includes the use of an electronic tagging technology. The electronic tag is attached to the product when it is manufactured and contains integrated circuitry for writing information to and reading information from the tag. Each time the product is shipped to a new location, the information stored on the tag can be accessed. Although the information read from and written to the tags may include repair information, nowhere does the reference disclose installing or uninstalling a software module for reading or writing such tag information. Instead, it appears that the communication with the tag is automatic when the tag and the tag reader come within a certain range of each other, which obviates the need for installing or uninstalling software.

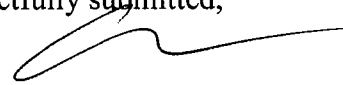
Therefore, independent claims 1, 14-16 and 24-25 (as amended) are believed to be distinguishable over Katayanagi for at least the reasons noted above. Likewise, dependent claims 2-13, and 17-23 are also believed to be distinguishable over Katayanagi based on their respective dependencies on claims 1 and 16.

III. Conclusion

In light of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 are both novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

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